

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1857.

The leading articles in this and last week's *Advertiser*, like the ledger of a fraudulent bank, are carefully prepared to make a false show. The truthfulness of the articles is too much insisted on—insisted on with a nervousness that suggests a very natural conviction that the writer did not expect to be believed. The following passage deserves a word of comment:

"For five or six years past a sum varying annually from \$100,000 to \$130,000 has been voted by the Legislature for public improvements on each of the islands of the group. These improvements, at the bidding of that august body, have been deemed of great importance that both branches unite to order them executed, but by some singular optical illusion, no sooner has the session closed than these works are deemed of no utility, and a privy council hurried together to strike them from the bill of appropriations as useless and uncalled for. And the Minister of the Treasury takes delight and pride in showing that his 'unexpended balance' exceeds the amount expended, and that the people have been defied, and their necessities tampered with. Year after year the scene has been re-enacted, with coolness which, in a better cause, merits admiration. But, wonderfully enough, one or two public works, before the eyes of the metropolitan public, are considered of vast importance and kept in motion, to give the appearance that something is being done."

For our part, we should not have liked to risk the good opinion of the intelligent portion of our readers by venturing upon so specious a misrepresentation of what they understand as well as any tribe on the seven islands. It is perfectly well known that both branches of the legislature have for several years past united in passing certain appropriations for public improvements, so called, being nevertheless understood from the sanction of several years practice, that only a portion of them is expected to be executed. At each "session" of the august body alluded to, the Minister takes a showing of what public works have been prosecuted; as for the others nobody cares about them, and not one in ten is asked for at all. True, he looks at first like an odd way of doing business, but it comes of this simple fact, that the executive cannot make \$300,000 into \$400,000, or \$600,000 into \$600,000. It has not learned how to extract a quart of liquid from a pint measure. Whatever one august body can do in the way of the execution, the Cabinet can't hatch money. And the gentlemen of the Lower House insist on giving the instructions of their constituents carried out, and the bill of appropriations swelled with a portentous list of public improvements to the private properties. The etiquette seems to be that no member shall oppose another member who did not, or will not when his time comes, oppose him, in carrying out the views of some schemer of his district. The Upper House to save time and expense takes these items in a lump, and from ordering all the works to be carried out, simply allows the figures to remain an eye-sore in the Appropriation Bill, and show how much easier it is for deliberative bodies to devise ways for expending money rather than means for raising the money. Did the members contemplate any probability of hearing afterwards that the sums so expended had been actually expended, they would be little more inquisitive as to the design and purpose of each little improvement. Meanwhile the members go home contented and report that they have done at much greater length than the *Hawaii* allows them, and boasting that they have got the thing demanded they forget that they never gave a thought as to where the money was to come from. Thus then that wonderful reduction by more than half to which the appropriations for public improvements have been subjected, and on account of which the country is derided upon by the *Advertiser* to bemoan itself under a weak and wicked government, turns out to be a matter of necessity for want of means, and a matter of understanding year after year between the Legislature and the Administration.

And now with regard to the steamer. The *Advertiser* says:

"The last 'assembled wisdom of the nation' sanctioned the construction of a steamer to aid our island in its commercial interests. Why no plan for introducing steam has been better known within the enclosure of the government walls than without, but the people are left to infer that it is owing to indifference or mismanagement somewhere. Better lay the keel to-morrow, and give employment to residents, even though it may cost \$60,000 and

take five years to build it, than let the islands go without the prospect of this great agent which is peopling the rivers and coasts of every new country on the globe with a celerity which strikes wonder and amazement even to the settlers themselves, and which ought to encourage our Government to renewed exertion in the matter."

The shortest way will be to quote the Act of Legislature, or those two sections of it which only have relation to the purchasing or procuring of the steamer.

"SECTION 1. The Minister of the Interior is hereby authorized by and with the advice and consent of the King and Cabinet, to purchase, or contract for the construction of a steam-boat for inter-island trade, with all necessary furniture and equipment, and deliver the same at the port of Honolulu, at a cost not exceeding the sum of sixty thousand dollars."

"SECTION 2. The Minister of Finance is hereby authorized on the order of the Minister of the Interior, for the purpose aforesaid, to issue exchequer bills, payable to said Minister or his order, for a sum not exceeding sixty thousand dollars, payable at such time and rate of interest as His Majesty and Cabinet may determine; provided, however, should it be found necessary to pay cash in part in lieu of exchequer bills for the same amount, the Minister of the Interior is hereby authorized to draw on the Treasury for a sum not exceeding twenty thousand dollars to be paid out of any monies not otherwise appropriated; and provided further that said Minister of the Interior may at his discretion permit private parties to take a proportionate interest in said steamer."

The Minister is authorized, when the King and Cabinet considering the project practicable grant their consent, to procure a vessel not to cost more than \$60,000. This was not an appropriation of money to be paid whether or no; if it had been, no discretionary voice in regard to its expenditure would have been given to the King and Cabinet. No legislature would impose precautionary checks upon a minister's execution of a measure it had peremptorily decided on. The great difficulty was foreseen—the want of money. Section 2 provides different plans for the purchase of the vessel without an immediate outlay, or at least without an outlay of more than \$20,000. This is the limit beyond which the Minister cannot pass. But why face about now and blame the Minister for obstacles that were foreseen and calculated by the Legislature, as if they had arisen unexpectedly since the Legislature has adjourned? Why abuse him for not carrying through a provisional arrangement beset with so many lets and hindrances that the Act under which he is to operate had to provide different methods of procedure in the bare hope that one might succeed, and beyond all that, left the very attempt to be made or not, sooner or later, according to the judgment of the King and Cabinet? In the mean time what could be done was done; the style of vessel was decided on, specifications and estimates procured; it only remained for Mr. Allen to succeed in raising a loan to meet the expenses of another undertaking in regard to which the Legislature has given evidence of equal interest. The money so procured would have relieved the Treasury, and the Minister have been in a position to contract for a steamer. As we all know the loan was not negotiated, and simply because the government would not pay interest at what the *Advertiser* calls "ruinous rates," yet rates at which that paper asserts the government to be now "begging" for money. To conclude this matter of the steamer we will observe that the project of purchasing one, so far from being thrust upon the executive by the Legislature, originated in the Cabinet; that the bill to provide for securing it was a Ministerial measure, and that the King and the Cabinet having been unsuccessful in their endeavors under that Act have, as we hear, long since entered into negotiations which they hope may result in the government being able at the next meeting of the two Houses to announce that a steamer is already on its way here, if not actually arrived. This does not look very like "indifference or mismanagement."

The remainder of the first of the articles we have alluded to is devoted to general assertions and a prophetic foreshadowing of the coming man who is to set our finances right. Not having been in the government service in a financial position, his qualifications are to be judged of by his success in the management of his own concerns.

"A treasurer should be appointed, and he should be a man of the most thorough ability, who has the entire public confidence, who has shown himself capable of managing creditably his own affairs, and who can impart vigor to a branch of the government which has fallen into disrepute."

Presuming him therefore to be a man in independent circumstances, his main object will be to reduce chaos to order. From his indifference for

the remunerations of office, and the fact that "though he may find naught but an empty vault it will not be long before his presence and counsel would restore a healthy system to a now rotten corporation," we have a presentiment that some individual as stern and commanding as the elder Pitt is in our political office. But above all he "will not stoop to follow the leadings of the Minister of Foreign Relations." If the *Advertiser* is not blinded by its spite towards that Minister, it must be supremely ignorant of how matters are conducted in a Cabinet composed of none but gentlemen. It seems to consider that one member can address another with the overbearing brevity and coarseness of a Dr. Samuel Johnson—"Sir, you don't know what you are talking about—let us have no more of this—your phraseology is as unhappy as your logic is bad." That Mr. Wyllie invariably expresses his own opinions boldly is as notorious as it is that he listens to those of others courteously. As one member he enjoys, whether in the Cabinet or Council, a single vote. In what concerns his own department he takes the initiative and is guided by the majority. But he is not the man to mistake himself for a Wolsey or a Richelieu, however much the *Advertiser* may foster that opinion by a liberal use of that insinuating flattery which steals from under a cloak of dissent. Did he number only half his years we should seriously beg our contemporary not to lure him to his ruin by such soft arts.

The *Advertiser* has got into a way of putting words into the mouths of "the people." It even pretends that the people are discontented; that they pine for an auditor and can't sleep comfortably for a night-mare in the shape of 12 to 18 per cent. interest that the government is paying. God save the mark! Never—and we make the assertion advisedly—never was the government so popular as at present, never since it was organized and the chiefs abandoned their feudal rule. The people know that their young King is the active head of the government; that his brother is (the *Advertiser's* Richelieu not excepted,) the most influential Minister of the Crown. They feel something of that security which they enjoyed under the old regime. The feudal feeling in their bosoms is rather in abeyance than extinguished, and confidently they come for help and counsel to their chiefs. There is something almost touching in their confidence, for some of their troubles are so slight that a foreigner would hardly care to mention such to his next door neighbor. Instead of going to the courts of law they come to their chiefs. Instead of going to the man who owes them money they come to their chiefs for a letter to him. They come to consult them about leasing their houses, about giving their daughters in marriage, and sometimes when they are in a scrape they come about that. These things are of daily occurrence. The chiefs are once more the fathers of the people. But we never heard of any native coming to ask what interest the government was paying, or whether the King had his eye yet on an Auditor of Finance.

In this week's article there is much that could be commented on, but our space would not hold out, and we must content ourselves for the present with touching on one or two points. After giving the amounts expended under the various appropriations during the year beginning with the 1st April, 1856, and ending with the 31st March, 1857, it says.

"The items which have exceeded their appropriations are the Civil List and the Department of Foreign Relations."

But as might have been expected by any one who has previously watched its figures, our contemporary is wrong. The Department of Foreign Relations has been charged in the Treasury books with two amounts, which might otherwise have been entered in the account of Miscellaneous Expenditures. They were passed under section 5 of the Appropriation Bill, which provides for the expenses of Foreign Missions, and consist of \$400 paid to Mr. Allen, and \$82 paid to Mr. Turrill. The *Advertiser* makes the expenses of the Department of Foreign Relations to appear \$9,139.86, against an appropriation of \$8,936.85. Deduct the \$482 alluded to, and it will appear that the Department had still a balance in its favor. The items having been entered where they were, it was natural enough for our contemporary to fall into the error, but before taking ground upon it a little

more caution might have been used, to ascertain if any money had been expended under Section 5, a contingency that the *Advertiser* lost sight of.

With regard to the Civil List, the blunder is a genuine one. The whole appropriation for two years amounts to \$69,100, but of this sum \$7,000 for additional buildings and improvements in the Palace grounds, and \$2,500 for the King's wedding tour, had to be paid during the first year. Deducting therefore \$9,500 from \$69,100, there remain \$59,600 to be divided between the two years, or say \$29,800 for each year. But the *Advertiser* dividing the whole \$69,100 into two equal parts states the yearly appropriation at \$34,550, and gives for the expenditure for the first year \$39,472.27. From this last amount then take \$9,500, and the regular expenditure for that year is reduced to \$29,972.27, or \$172.27 more than the appropriation. This difference is accounted for by the fact of the balance sheet having been drawn up on April 23rd, and some amounts due in April having in the meanwhile been paid on account and charged against the appropriation for the first year, which actually expired on the 31st of March.

The *Advertiser* talks loudly of reductions to be made, but gives little credit for those already effected. It does indeed say,

"The appropriation for the Department of Public Instruction has very properly been cut down one quarter from the amount voted, but might be still further reduced."

But in pointing to that single reduction it would seem to imply that it was a solitary case. It opens especially upon the Department of Law, and makes all sorts of suggestions for the lessening of its expenses. But it does not say that it, in common with all the other Departments, is already a razee. It does not say that the Government, so greedy of patronage, has been reducing its patronage by reducing its officers; it does not say that the Government, so anxious to have the fingering of "the people's" money, has been engaged with measures that will make less money pass through its hands. Generosity seems to lie with the Legislature, but prudence with the Executive. No mention is made of the fact that since the passage of the last appropriation bill the Government has made the following reductions in the Judiciary Department:

One Circuit Judge on Hawaii,	\$1,000
One " " Maui,	1,000
Three District Judges on Maui, say	1,100
Three " " Oahu, "	1,150
	\$4,250

The *Advertiser's* proposition to have one judge only for the island of Hawaii, is so out of the way, as hardly to deserve notice. In the first place no man in the kingdom, who is qualified, would accept the office and undertake to visit every district on Hawaii once a month, and attend to all the judicial business. It would seem, too, that the thing would prove physically impossible, for such long periods would be occupied in travelling that he would not have sufficient time left to attend to all the business. Further, if the project were practicable, it would be an outrageous arrangement, because persons arrested for petty offences under the penal laws, would have to remain in custody, without being brought up for examination, for two, three or four weeks, instead of having the benefit of a speedy trial, as under the present law, which provides for their being brought up within forty-eight hours. The government as a set-off to the saving in salaries would have to incur the expense of feeding and lodging the prisoners during their long detention.

It is true we have magistrates enough for a larger population, but the districts, particularly on the island of Hawaii, are large, and the people in many cases to reach a magistrate have to travel a distance that would not be borne in other countries. On the island of Kauai perhaps a small reduction might be made in the number of District Justices, and if feasible no doubt the thing will be done, since retrenchment is the order of the day.

Died

At her residence in this place, at 8 1/2 o'clock last evening, Mary K., wife of Rev. E. W. Clark, aged 54, and for 29 years a resident of these islands.

She retained her consciousness to the last, and in the midst of the agonies of dissolving nature found the Saviour unspeakably precious.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

Death of an old Resident.

Died at his residence in Lahaina on Sunday, Aug. 9th, 1857, Mr. John White, a native of Plymouth, England. Mr. White was on board the frigate *Amelia* which was attached to the North Sea fleet under Vice Admiral Duncan, and was in the action fought with Dutch fleet in the year 1796. He first landed on these islands in 1796, and became a permanent resident in the year 1802, and is supposed to have been at the time of his death, one of the oldest foreign residents on the islands. He was twenty-three years old when he left England, and must have been about eighty-four years of age at the time of his decease.

Accidental Death.

A foreigner by the name of Jos. Doe, as we learn it, who was formerly in the police, was killed a few days since at Hahakumu, by being gored by a cow.